

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01407 120954Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
PA-01 PRS-01 /101 W
-----017620 120959Z /14

R 120830Z JUL 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8167
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 1407

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, EEWT, CH, US, SN

SUBJ: "ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL" ARTICLE CONCERNING PRC
TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH OFF-SHORE DRILLING RIGS

REF: PEKING 1196

1. WE HAVE JUST SEEN AN "ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL"
ARTICLE OF JUNE 30 DISCUSSING TECHNICAL PROBLEMS THE
PRC IS HAVING WITH ONE -- AND POSSIBLY BOTH --
ROBIN LOH (SINGAPORE)- CONTRACTED OFF-SHORE DRILLING
RIGS. THE ARTICLE QUOTES UNNAMED INDUSTRY SOURCES
AS SAYING THE RIGS CONTAIN UNNECESSARILY SOPHISTICATED
AND SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT WHICH PRC TECHNICIANS
ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY MAINTAINING. A "TASK FORCE"
OF US COMPANIES - INCLUDING GENERAL ELECTRIC,
WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC, CATERPILLAR, AND
INGERSOLL-RAND -- HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN FORMED AND
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WILL TRAVEL TO CHINA TO INSPECT THE RIGS. NO DATE
FOR THE TRIP HAS YET BEEN SET.

2. THE ARTICLE ALSO REFERS TO A THIRD RIG
PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY ROBIN LOH
AND SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY TO THE PRC IN
MID-JULY.

3. COMMENT: WE HAD PREVIOUSLY HEARD FROM
REPRESENTATIVES OF ARMCO STEEL AND CATERPILLAR
(REFTEL) THAT EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS WITH THE
ROBIN LOH RIGS WERE HAMPERING PRC DRILLING
EFFORTS. ARMCO TOLD US IT PLANS TO SEND
TECHNICIANS TO CHINA LATER IN THE SUMMER TO
VISIT THE RIG IN THE POHAI GULF. IF
ADDRESSEES LEARN ANY FURTHER DETAILS OF THE
REPORTED US "TASK FORCE" AND ITS TRAVEL
PLANS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED.
DEAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, OFFSHORE DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 1888905
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: \"ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL\" ARTICLE CONCERNING PRC TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH OFF-SHORE DRILLING RIGS
TAGS: ENRG, EEWT, CH, US, SN
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